

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Partisan Brigades

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1.

pro-Cominform Yugoslavs were reported to be in training in Hungary. It is rumored that the brigades include also groups of other nationalities, and that the total number of these troops is somewhere in the neighborhood of ten thousand.

2. A conference is said to have been held in February 1950 at a town in the Matra Mountains, under the chairmanship of Marshal K. K. Rokossovsky, at which plans were elaborated for the further development of the partisan brigades. A Russian general named Sinkov was appointed as commander of the international brigade, with a General Baklanov as chief of staff. Housing and other facilities were arranged for by the Hungarian Minister of War, Mihaly Farkas, and recruiting was begun

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3. The alleged international brigade in Hungary is said to be composed of approximately the following units:

- 8 motorized infantry battalions
- 12 batteries of light artillery
- 1 police battalion
- 2 communications companies
- 1-3 battalions of parachutists
- 2 autonomous air squadrons (150 men each)
- 1 scout battalion
- 2 intelligence battalions

Some of the individual reports follow.

4. Five of the battalions are said to be composed of Yugoslavs, some of them women. These receive ideological training aimed at the overthrow of Tito. Many of them are said to be trained as parachute troops. They are equipped with modern Soviet weapons, including armored cars and artillery.

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5. [redacted] The planned strength is set at 25,000; necessary funds are provided from the budget of the Hungarian Ministry of National Defense. Most of the officers are Russians.
6. A number of the reports agree in placing the parachute unit in the vicinity of Pápa, and in giving the name of its commander as Col. Kalichenko. Another parachute training course for partisans is said to be located at Dékescsaba, 50X1-HUM under the leadership of one József Valentini; here the trainees would appear to be Hungarians. The two air squadrons are reported to be stationed at Tapolca.
7. Two detachments of Yugoslav sabotage agents, or terrorists, are being trained at Siklós and Janka Puszta (described as near Zalaegerszeg). Most of the other units are also in places near the Yugoslav border, such as Pécs, Baja, and Nagykanizsa; but there is an important training camp [redacted] in the Bakony Mountains, and one near Miskolc. In addition to the camps in Hungary, there are said to be others in Rumania (as at Timisoara) and in Bulgaria. [redacted] on 17 July 1950 about 450 Hungarians left a camp at Tata (Y 94) for transport to Bulgaria; seven per cent. of these were 50X1-HUM women. During the following week 140 Rumanians and between 100 and 200 Bulgarians arrived at Tata; orders have been given to provide housing for additional partisans from Rumania and Bulgaria, possibly to the number of 2,500.
8. The camps near Tata specialize in sabotage and night-fighting, according to a Hungarian government official. They are supervised by Capt. Imre Viski and Capt. János Halász. The graduates are supposed to be especially well prepared for anti-sabotage work, and they are assigned to the protection of railroad lines, etc., at night. General István Szabo is quoted as saying that the use of the partisans has reduced the number of acts of sabotage on the railroads.
9. In June or July 1950 partisan units of various nationalities were engaged in manoeuvres in the Bakony forest area; among them were Hungarian SzHSz (fighters for freedom) units. General Sinkov's headquarters was situated in the Esterhazy castle near Pápa, while the headquarters for the Bakony zone was in the Zichy castle at Nagyvasszony. Units of the so called partisan brigade are stationed in several small towns north of Lake Balaton.
10. [redacted] the Hungarian partisans had 50X1-HUM been transferred to the vicinity of Nagykanizsa [redacted] their commander was General Zoltan Oerlei, former commander of the 5th Division of the Hungarian Army.*

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- * [redacted] Comment: It seems possible that at least some of the reports concerning partisan activity really refer to the SzHSz, and that only Hungarians are involved. [redacted]

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